

amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Newell, then Senator Lamb.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the Wagner amendment. I'd like to tell the members of the Legislature that 908 is not a philosophically perfectly understandable piece of legislation. It is a very complicated proposal, based on I think some criteria that are trying to preserve an old standard. The old standard is that a city ought to be able to expand its boundaries when in fact it grows. That is the old standard. We have exceptions to that rule. But that is the old standard. The proposal that Senator Wagner offers, and I appreciate very much why Senator Wagner offers that, is not going to work very effectively with the rest of the provisions of 908. In fact what it basically does is it takes away any logical philosophical orientation to LB 908 of the election process because it says in effect you can veto the kind of annexation that is necessary to try to keep some continuity or contiguity in the boundaries. LB 908 is not a bad bill. It may not be the simplest thing to understand, but it is not a bad bill. It does in fact provide some things that the small Class I's and Class VI's can be the beneficiaries of. Quite absent of any philosophical justification in my opinion, it does offer the Class VI's an opportunity for one-time parent choice. That allows for an opportunity to have a growing out period of the circumstances that they find themselves in in those Class VI's that surround urban areas. More importantly 908 takes care of and allows for negotiations. With the Wagner amendment you negate those negotiations, you negate the very philosophical underpinning of the bill, and you do take care of Senator Wagner's district. But that is not a good solution to this kind of problem long term. I urge this Legislature to remember that we are trying to find a rational solution to a long term problem that faced many cities in this state. This approach that Senator Wagner offers is not that solution. LB 908, in its present form, is and it does provide for some working out and some consistency with the one-time parent choice provision which will help Class VI's deal with the kinds of changes that they are going to be going through. With that,